Application No. 10/023,678
Paper Dated: December 14, 2004
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of September 24, 2004
Confirmation No. 3528
PPG Case No. 1713A1
Attorney Docket No. 3152-015102

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of determining the status of ~~an article on which work is being performed~~ a vehicle undergoing repair comprising the steps of:

~~(1)~~ maintaining a computer database containing a vehicle identifier for a vehicle undergoing repair and repair status information for the vehicle undergoing repair, the vehicle identifier comprising a vehicle identification number or a bar code;

electronically transferring data on the status of ~~an article~~ the vehicle undergoing repair to ~~a~~ the computer database~~,~~;

~~(2)~~ searching the computer database to locate the ~~article~~ vehicle undergoing repair; and

~~(3)~~ identifying data on the status of the ~~article~~ vehicle undergoing repair.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 2 1, ~~wherein step (4) comprises~~ further comprising electronically transferring the identified data to a remote location.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 3 further comprising electronically requesting the status of the vehicle prior to said searching step ~~(2)~~.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 4, wherein said searching and identifying steps ~~(2) and (3)~~ are performed on a computer network.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 5, wherein the computer database ~~of step (1)~~ is maintained on a global computer communications network.

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Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 21, wherein said transferring step (1) comprises entering the status data on the vehicle status into a data transfer device and transferring the status data from the data transfer device to the computer database.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 7, wherein the data transfer device is portable.

Claims 9 and 10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the status data includes information selected from the group consisting of: (i) cost estimate completed, (ii) repair authorized by owner, (iii) insurance approved, (iv) parts ordered, (v) parts received, (vi) vehicle scheduled for repair, (vii) vehicle disassembled, (viii) supplemental damage report written, (ix) repair of supplemental damage approved by insurance, (x) additional parts ordered, (xi) vehicle set up on repair equipment, (xii) structure and body repaired, (xiii) panels installed, (xiv) corrosion protection applied, (xv) metal work completed, (xvi) vehicle primed for painting, (xvii) vehicle painted, (xviii) vehicle cleaned, (xix) vehicle refinished, and (xx) repair completed.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 11, wherein the vehicle undergoes repair steps which result in the status datacorresponding to each of the information items (i)-(xx) of claim 11.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein said repair steps are performed in the order of the information ofitems (i)-(xx) oflisted in claim 11.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein the status of the vehicle is provided to the owner of the vehicle following at least one of repair steps (v), (x), and (xv), and (xx).

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Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein the status of the vehicle is automatically provided to the owner of the vehicle.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method of tracking the repair process of a vehicle that is in a repair shop comprising the steps of:

(1) periodically electronically transferring data on the status of a plurality of vehicles undergoing repair to a database on a computer;

(2) determining the length of time that the status data for each vehicle remains unchanged via software on the computer; and

(3) identifying a vehicle for which the status data is unchanged beyond a predetermined length of time and identifying the unchanged status data.; and

determining the extent that the status data is unchanged beyond a predetermined length of time.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method of claim 16, wherein the status data of step (1) is transferred daily.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim 16, wherein the transferred status data of step (1) is selected from the group consisting of: (i) cost estimate completed, (ii) repair authorized by owner, (iii) insurance approved, (iv) parts ordered, (v) parts received, (vi) vehicle scheduled for repair, (vii) vehicle disassembled, (viii) supplemental damage report written, (ix) repair of supplemental damage approved by insurance, (x) additional parts ordered, (xi) vehicle set up on repair equipment, (xii) structure and body repaired, (xiii) panels installed, (xiv) corrosion protection applied, (xv) metal work completed, (xvi) vehicle primed for painting, (xvii) vehicle painted, (xviii) vehicle cleaned, (xix) vehicle refinished, and (xx) repair completed.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method of claim 16, wherein said electronically transferring step (1) comprises entering the status data into a data transfer device and transferring the data from the data transfer device to a computer.

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Claim 20 (original). The method of claim 16, wherein the database stores an identifier for each vehicle, the identifier being selected from the group consisting of vehicle make, vehicle model and vehicle year such that the software determines the extent that the status data for each identifier remains unchanged beyond a predetermined length of time.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A system for determining the status of ~~an article on which work is being performed~~a vehicle undergoing repair comprising:

a data transfer device for entering data on the status of ~~an article on which work is being performed~~a vehicle undergoing repair;

a computer database for tabulating status data entered in the data transfer device and transferred to said computer database, said status data comprising a vehicle identifier comprising a vehicle identification number or a bar code and repair status information for the vehicle undergoing repair;

software for identifying ~~an article~~a vehicle in said database and the corresponding data on the status of the ~~article~~vehicle; and

means for transferring the corresponding data to a remote location.

Claim 22 (original): The system of claim 21, wherein said data transfer device is portable.

Claim 23 (cancelled).

Claim 24 (currently amended): The system of claim ~~23~~21, wherein said status data includes information selected from the group consisting of: (i) cost estimate completed, (ii) repair authorized by owner, (iii) insurance approved, (iv) parts ordered, (v) parts received, (vi) vehicle scheduled for repair, (vii) vehicle disassembled, (viii) supplemental damage report written, (ix) repair of supplemental damage approved by insurance, (x) additional parts ordered, (xi) vehicle set up on repair equipment, (xii) structure and body repaired, (xiii) panels installed, (xiv) corrosion protection applied, (xv) metal work completed, (xvi) vehicle primed for painting, (xvii) vehicle painted, (xviii) vehicle cleaned, (xix) vehicle refinished, and (xx) repair completed.

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Claim 25 (currently amended): The system of claim 24, wherein the status data ~~includes a vehicle identifier~~ corresponds to repair steps performed on the vehicle.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The system of claim ~~25~~24, wherein the ~~identifier is a repair order number, a Vehicle Identification Number, or a bar code~~ status data corresponds to repair steps performed in the order listed in claim 24.

Claims 27-42 (cancelled).

Claim 43 (currently amended): A system of tracking the repair process of a vehicle that is in a repair shop comprising:

~~(1)~~ means for electronically transferring data on a periodic basis on the status of a plurality of vehicles undergoing repair to a database of a computer;

~~(2)~~ means for determining the length of time that the status data for each vehicle remains unchanged via software on the computer; ~~and~~

~~(3)~~ means for identifying a vehicle for which the status data is unchanged beyond a predetermined length of time and identifying the unchanged status data~~.~~; and

means for determining the extent that the status data is unchanged beyond a predetermined length of time.

Claim 44 (original): The system of claim 43, wherein the status data is transferred daily.

Claim 45 (currently amended): The system of claim 43, wherein the transferred status data ~~of step (1)~~ is selected from the group consisting of: (i) cost estimate completed, (ii) repair authorized by owner, (iii) insurance approved, (iv) parts ordered, (v) parts received, (vi) vehicle scheduled for repair, (vii) vehicle disassembled, (viii) supplemental damage report written, (ix) repair of supplemental damage approved by insurance, (x) additional parts ordered, (xi) vehicle set up on repair equipment, (xii) structure and body repaired, (xiii) panels installed, (xiv) corrosion protection applied, (xv) metal work completed, (xvi) vehicle primed for painting, (xvii) vehicle painted, (xviii) vehicle cleaned, (xix) vehicle refinished, and (xx) repair completed.

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Claim 46 (currently amended): The system of claim 43, wherein said means (1) for electronically transferring is a portable data transfer device into which status data is entered and transferred to the database.

Claim 47 (original). The system of claim 43, wherein the database stores an identifier for each vehicle, the identifier being selected from the group consisting of vehicle make, vehicle model, and vehicle year such that the software determines the extent that the status data for each identifier remains unchanged beyond a predetermined length of time.